PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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Applicant's or agent's file reference CFO17897WO	**FOR FURTHER ACTION**		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/JP2004/001425	International filing date *(day/month/year)* 10.02.2004		Priority date *(day/month/year)* 14.02.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC
Int.Cl.⁷ G06F3/12, G06T1/00, G09C1/00, G09C5/00, H04L9/00, H04N1/00

Applicant
CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of ____3____ sheets, including this cover sheet.

3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:

    a. ☑ a total of ____6____ sheets, as follows:

        ☑ sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).

        ☐ sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.

    b. ☐ a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____,
containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

    ☑ Box No. I   Basis of the report

    ☐ Box No. II   Priority

    ☐ Box No. III   Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

    ☐ Box No. IV   Lack of unity of invention

    ☑ Box No. V   Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

    ☐ Box No. VI   Certain documents cited

    ☐ Box No. VII   Certain defects in the international application

    ☐ Box No. VIII   Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 10.09.2004	Date of completion of this report 23.05.2005
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP **Japan Patent Office** 3-4-3, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8915, Japan	Authorized officer 5E 8 7 3 0 KONDO Satoshi Telephone No. +81-3-3581-1101 Ext. 3521

Box No. I	Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

    ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____ , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

    ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))

    ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)

    ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the **elements** of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

    ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished

    ☑ the description:

    pages ___1-53___ as originally filed/furnished

    pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

    pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

    ☑ the claims:

    pages ___3-5,7,10-16___ as originally filed/furnished

    pages* ___1,2,6,8,9___ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

    pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

    pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

    ☑ the drawings:

    pages ___1-28___ as originally filed/furnished

    pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

    pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

    ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

    ☐ the description, pages _____

    ☐ the claims, Nos. _____

    ☐ the drawings , sheets/figs _____

    ☐ the sequence listing (specify): _____

    ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of), the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

    ☐ the description, pages _____

    ☐ the claims, Nos. _____

    ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____

    ☐ the sequence listing (specify): _____

    ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-16	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims	1-16	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-16	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations(Rule 70.7)

Document1.EP 1197828 A1(Trustcopy Pte Ltd) 2002.04.17
& JP 2002-169681 A & US 2002/0042884 A1 & WO 02/32047 A1

Document2.JP 2002-156903 A(Hitachi Seisakusyo Ltd.)2002.05.31
(Family:none)
Document3.JP 11-154139 A(Fujitsu LTD.)1999.06.08
(Family:none)

The subject matter of claims 1-16 does not involve an inventive step over Document1 (see Paragraph[0052]-[0064]) cited in the ISR in view of new Document2(see Abstract), new Document3(see Abstract, Paragraph[0025]-[0027]).
The person skilled in the art would easily conceive the idea of applying the technical feature "the authentication server" employed in Document2, "the monitor table (2c)" employed in Document3 to the invention disclosed in Document1.

CLAIMS

1.   (Amended) A data processing method of an
image processing system in which a server apparatus
and a data processing apparatus communicate with each
5   other to perform a predetermined data process,
comprising:

a storing step of storing an electronic data in
the data processing apparatus;

a first extraction step of extracting a feature
10   information of the electronic data to be output to a
printer apparatus stored in the data processing
apparatus;

a first transmission step of transmitting
original specifying information including the feature
15   information extracted in said first extraction step
and a user ID for discriminating a print requester of
the electronic data but not transmitting the
electronic data stored in the data processing
apparatus, to the server apparatus;

20   a control step of controlling generation of
print data to be output to the printer apparatus, on
the basis of original certification information
notified by the server apparatus and the electronic
data stored in the data processing apparatus; and

25   a print step of causing the printer apparatus
to print the print data generated in said control
step and information indicating that the print data

AMENDED SHEET(ARTICLE19)

corresponds to an original.

2. (Amended) A data processing method according to Claim 1, further comprising:

5   a second extraction step of extracting additional information included in an original certification print image to be output to the printer apparatus based on the print data generated in said control step;

10   a second transmission step of transmitting to the server apparatus update information including the additional information extracted in said second extraction step, a new feature information extracted from new electronic data in said first extraction

15   step, the feature information and the user ID;

an administration step of receiving the original specifying information transmitted from the data processing apparatus, registering the received information in a storage unit, and administrating the registered information;

20   registered information;

an update step of updating the content of the original specifying information, by verifying the update information transmitted from the data processing apparatus and the original specifying

25   information; and

a notification step of, when original certification printing is requested by the data

processing apparatus, notifying the data processing
apparatus of the original certification information
to be added to the electronic data, by referring the
original specifying information transmitted from the
5   data processing apparatus and the original specifying
information registered in the storage unit.

3.   (Unchanged) A data processing method
according to Claim 2, wherein said administration
10   step performs file administration of the original
specifying information and administration information
of the original specifying information.

4.   (Unchanged) A data processing method
15   according to Claim 2, wherein said update step
updates administration information stored in the
storage unit.

5.   (Unchanged) A data processing method
20   according to Claim 4, wherein the administration
information includes a registration number, a
registration date, version information, an update
history and a confirmation history for administrating
the original specifying information.

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6.   (Amended) A data processing method according
to Claim 2, wherein said update step updates any one

of a registered registration date, a feature
information, version information, and an update
history included in the information stored in the
storage unit.

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     7. (Unchanged) A data processing method
according to Claim 2, further comprising:

     a confirmation step of, when original
confirmation is requested by the data processing

10   apparatus, confirming originality of the original
specifying information by referring the original
specifying information transmitted from the data
processing apparatus and the original specifying
information registered in the storage unit; and

15   a confirmation notification step of notifying
the data processing apparatus of a confirmation
result in said confirmation step.

     8. (Amended) A data processing method according

20   to Claim 2, wherein the storage unit stores, as
administration information, information specifying a
date when the feature information is recorded.

     9. (Amended) A data processing method according

25   to Claim 1, wherein said control step adds the
feature information to the print data as a digital
watermark.

10. (Unchanged) A data processing method according to Claim 1, wherein said control step adds area information, for inputting signature information, to the print data.

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11. (Unchanged) A data processing method according to Claim 10, further comprising a step of extracting a signature image drawn in the area information added in said control step, and

10 transmitting the extracted signature image to the server apparatus.

12. (Unchanged) A data processing method according to Claim 1, further comprising a step of,

15 when reprinting is requested by the data processing apparatus, notifying the data processing apparatus of administration information to be added to the electronic data, by referring the original specifying information transmitted from the data processing

20 apparatus and the original specifying information registered in the storage unit.

13. (Unchanged) A data processing method according to Claim 12, further comprising a

25 confirmation step of, when the reprinting is requested by the data processing apparatus, confirming determination as to whether or not to

perform the printing by referring restriction
information.

14. (Unchanged) A data processing method
according to Claim 13, wherein the restriction
information indicates the maximum number of printing
of the electronic data or an upper limit value of the
number of printing of the electronic data.

15. (Unchanged) A data processing method
according to Claim 13, wherein the restriction
information is original specifying information for
specifying a user other than registered users who can
print the electronic data.

16. (Unchanged) A data processing method
according to Claim 13, wherein the restriction
information indicates a date or a time when the
electronic data can be printed.